

(b) Any State workmen's compensation law which provides longer periods for filing a claim subsequent to the events specified in this section shall be deemed to have met the requirements described herein. Any State workmen's compensation law which provides shorter time limitations on filing a claim, or which commences the period for filing a claim beginning with an event which is more restrictive than those specified in this section, shall be deemed not to have met the requirements of this section.

CRITERIA: MEDICAL STANDARDS FOR DETERMINING WHETHER MINER'S TOTAL DISABILITY OR DEATH WAS DUE TO PNEUMOCONIOSIS

§ 722.117 Medical criteria—generally.

Section 402(f) of the Act authorizes the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to establish and promulgate standards and medical criteria for determining whether a miner is totally disabled due to pneumoconiosis, whether a miner's death was due to pneumoconiosis, and whether a miner was totally disabled by pneumoconiosis at the time of his death. Section 421(b)(2)(C) of the Act requires that in order for a State to be included on the Secretary's list, such State must promulgate standards for determining death or total disability due to pneumoconiosis which are substantially equivalent to those promulgated by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare (see 20 CFR part 410, subpart D) and adopted pursuant to sections 415(a) and 422(c) of the Act by the Secretary of Labor in respect of claims filed subsequent to June 30, 1973 (see 20 CFR part 718). Therefore, no State shall be included on the Secretary's list if it does not by statute or published formal rules and regulations provide standards which are substantially equivalent to or less restrictive than those standards published by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare in subpart D of 20 CFR part 410 as amended on September 30, 1972 (37 FR 20641-20645).

§ 722.118 Medical evidence.

No State workmen's compensation law shall be included on the Sec-

retary's list unless such law or regulations promulgated thereunder provide that no claim shall be denied solely on the basis of a chest roentgenogram and, that in determining the validity of claims all evidence shall be considered, including, where relevant, medical tests such as blood gas studies, X-ray examination, electrocardiogram, pulmonary function studies, or physical performance tests, and any medical history, evidence pertaining to future employability, evidence submitted by a miner's physician, or a miner's wife's affidavits, and in the case of a deceased miner, autopsy, biopsy, or other appropriate affidavits of persons with knowledge of the miner's physical condition, and any other supportive materials.

§ 722.119 Medical presumptions.

Section 411(c) of part B of title IV of the Act establishes a series of presumptions which shall be available to claimants for purposes of determining whether a miner's death or total disability was due to pneumoconiosis. No State workmen's compensation law shall be included on the Secretary's list if it does not provide or if regulations promulgated pursuant to such State law do not make available to claimants presumptions which are equivalent to or less restrictive than those presumptions contained in section 411(c) of the Act as set forth below:

(a) If a miner who is suffering or suffered from pneumoconiosis was employed for 10 years or more in one or more coal mines, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that his pneumoconiosis arose out of such employment;

(b) If a deceased miner was employed for 10 years or more in one or more coal mines and died from a respirable disease, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that his death was due to pneumoconiosis;

(c) If a miner is suffering or suffered from a chronic dust disease of the lung which (1) when diagnosed by chest roentgenogram, yields one or more large opacities (greater than one centimeter in diameter) and would be classified in category A, B, or C in the International Classification of Radiographs of the Pneumoconioses by the International Labor Organization, (2) when

diagnosed by biopsy or autopsy, yields massive lesions in the lungs, or (3) when diagnosis is made by other means, would be a condition which could reasonably be expected to yield results described in paragraph (c) (1) or (2) of this section if diagnosis had been made in the manner prescribed in paragraph (c) (1) or (2) of this section, then there shall be an irrebuttable presumption that he is totally disabled due to pneumoconiosis or that his death was due to pneumoconiosis, or that at the time of his death he was totally disabled by pneumoconiosis, as the case may be; and

(d) If a miner was employed for 15 years or more before July 1, 1971, in one or more underground coal mines, and if there is a chest roentgenogram submitted in connection with such miner's, his widow's, his child's, his parent's, his brother's, his sister's, or his dependent's claim and it is interpreted as negative with respect to the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section, and if other evidence demonstrates the existence of a totally disabling respiratory or pulmonary impairment, then there shall be a rebuttable presumption that such miner is totally disabled due to pneumoconiosis, that his death was due to pneumoconiosis, or that at the time of his death he was totally disabled by pneumoconiosis. In the case of a living miner, a wife's affidavit may not be used by itself to establish the presumption. A State shall not apply all or a portion of the requirement of this paragraph that the miner work in an underground mine where it determines that conditions of a miner's employment in a coal mine other than an underground mine were substantially similar to conditions in an underground mine. Such presumption may be rebutted only by establishing that (1) such miner does not, or did not, have pneumoconiosis, or that (2) his respiratory or pulmonary impairment did not arise out of, or in connection with, employment in a coal mine.

§ 722.120 Total disability determination.

The Act requires that benefits be paid for total disability of a miner if pneumoconiosis prevents him from en-

gaging in gainful employment requiring the skills and abilities comparable to those of any employment in a mine or mines in which he previously engaged with some regularity and over a substantial period of time. No State workmen's compensation law shall be included on the Secretary's list if such law prohibits a finding that a miner is totally disabled solely on the basis of his ability to engage in gainful noncoal mine related employment, except that in cases where a miner engaged in noncoal mine related employment utilizes skills comparable to those required in his coal mine employment, it may be found that such miner is not entitled to benefits for total disability due to pneumoconiosis.

§ 722.121 Cause of death.

Section 421 of the Act requires the Secretary to find, before including a State workmen's compensation law in his listing of laws which provide adequate coverage for pneumoconiosis, that such law assures payment of benefits for total disability or death of a miner, determined under standards substantially equivalent to those established under part B of title IV of the Act, in all cases where either such total disability or such death was due to pneumoconiosis. Accordingly, in the case of death benefits, such benefits must be paid whether the miner's death or his total disability at the time of death was due to pneumoconiosis. Thus, sections 401 and 430 of the Act require that benefits be paid (a) for death due to pneumoconiosis and (b) for death due to any cause if the miner was totally disabled by pneumoconiosis at the time of his death. No State workmen's compensation law shall be included on the Secretary's list unless it contains a provision or provisions equivalent to those described in this section.

CRITERIA: ADMINISTRATIVE STANDARDS

§ 722.122 Administrative standards—generally.

In order to insure that each claimant for pneumoconiosis benefits under a State workmen's compensation law be afforded full due process of law, including notice and opportunity to be heard